an>

Title : Need to allocate adequate funds for completion of Virudhunagar-Manamadurai guage conversion work in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPIPARAI (SIVAKASI): The gauge conversion in between Virudhunagr and Manamadurai via Aruppukottai is very important and was one of the long vision of great leader Shri K. Kamaraj. If the Virduhunagar-Manmaduai Broad Gauge work is completed it would be easy for passenger and goods trains to reach Trichy from Virudhunagar through as an alternate route to the existing route of Madurai-Dindigul which is a highly congested. More over the MSL (Mean Sea Level) in the Virudhunagar-Manamadurai is much lower compared to Madurai-Dindigul-Trichy Sector thereby consumption of fuel can be reduced. Further it will be useful for the large number of Rameswaram bound devotees from the Southern districts of Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

Virudhunagar-Manmadurai gauge conversion work has been already sanctioned in the Railway Budget 2006-2007, but the allotted fund is not sufficient for completion of work in this financial year. So, I urge the Government to allocate adequate funds for the completion of Virudhunagar-Manmadurai gauge conversion work in a time bound manner.